

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Case number (if known)

Chapter you are filing under:

☒ Chapter 7

☐ Chapter 11

☐ Chapter 12

☐ Chapter 13

☐ Check if this is an amended filing

Official Form 101

Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy

04/20

The bankruptcy forms use *you* and *Debtor 1* to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint* case—and in joint cases, these forms use *you* to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, “Do you own a car,” the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

Part 1: Identify Yourself

About Debtor 1:

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

1. Your full name

Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport).

Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.

**Judith**

First name

**A**

Middle name

**Haven**

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

First name

Middle name

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years

Include your married or maiden names.

3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)

xxx-xx-1688

Debtor 1 **Judith A Haven**

Case number (if known)

**About Debtor 1:**

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

**4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years**

☒ I have not used any business name or EINs.

☐ I have not used any business name or EINs.

Include trade names and *doing business as* names

Business name(s)

Business name(s)

EIN

EIN

**5. Where you live**

**1027 Westfield Course  
Geneva, IL 60134**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**Kane**

County

**If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here.** Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

County

**If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here.** Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**6. Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy**

Check one:

☒ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason.  
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Check one:

☐ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason.  
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Debtor 1 **Judith A Haven**

Case number (if known)

**Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case**

7. **The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under** *Check one.* (For a brief description of each, see *Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)*). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.

☒ Chapter 7

☐ Chapter 11

☐ Chapter 12

☐ Chapter 13

8. **How you will pay the fee** ☒ **I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition.** Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.
- ☐ **I need to pay the fee in installments.** If you choose this option, sign and attach the *Application for Individuals to Pay The Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A).
- ☐ **I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.

9. **Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?** ☒ No.  
☐ Yes.

District _____	When _____	Case number _____
District _____	When _____	Case number _____
District _____	When _____	Case number _____

10. **Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?** ☒ No.  
☐ Yes.

Debtor _____	Relationship to you _____
District _____	When _____ Case number, if known _____
Debtor _____	Relationship to you _____
District _____	When _____ Case number, if known _____

11. **Do you rent your residence?** ☒ No. Go to line 12.  
☐ Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you?

☐ No. Go to line 12.

☐ Yes. Fill out *Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You* (Form 101A) and file it as part of this bankruptcy petition.

Debtor 1 **Judith A Haven**

Case number (if known)

**Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor**

**12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?**

☒ No. Go to Part 4.

☐ Yes. Name and location of business

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of business, if any

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

*Check the appropriate box to describe your business:*

- ☐ Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))  
☐ Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))  
☐ Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))  
☐ Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))  
☐ None of the above

**13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and are you a small business debtor or a debtor as defined by 11 U.S.C. § 1182(1)?**

For a definition of *small business debtor*, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

*If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor or a debtor choosing to proceed under Subchapter V so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor or you are choosing to proceed under Subchapter V, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 1116(1)(B).*

☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.

☐ No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11, I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code, and I do not choose to proceed under Subchapter V of Chapter 11.

☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11, I am a debtor according to the definition in § 1182(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, and I choose to proceed under Subchapter V of Chapter 11.

**Part 4: Report if You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention**

**14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?**

☒ No.

☐ Yes. What is the hazard? \_\_\_\_\_

If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed? \_\_\_\_\_

*For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?*

Where is the property? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number, Street, City, State & Zip Code

Debtor 1 **Judith A Haven**

Case number (if known)

**Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling**

**15. Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.**

The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file.

If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.

**About Debtor 1:**

*You must check one:*

- ☒ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you **MUST** file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy. If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

- ☐ **Incapacity.**  
I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
- ☐ **Disability.**  
My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
- ☐ **Active duty.**  
I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver credit counseling with the court.

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

*You must check one:*

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you **MUST** file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

- ☐ **Incapacity.**  
I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
- ☐ **Disability.**  
My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
- ☐ **Active duty.**  
I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

Debtor 1 **Judith A Haven**

Case number (if known)

**Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes**

<b>16. What kind of debts do you have?</b>	<b>16a.</b>	<b>Are your debts primarily consumer debts?</b> <i>Consumer debts</i> are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."
		<input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to line 16b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Go to line 17.
	<b>16b.</b>	<b>Are your debts primarily business debts?</b> <i>Business debts</i> are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.
		<input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to line 16c. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Go to line 17.
	<b>16c.</b>	State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts
<b>17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No.	I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.
<b>Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes.	I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>18. How many Creditors do you estimate that you owe?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99 <input type="checkbox"/> 100-199 <input type="checkbox"/> 200-999	<input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 5001-10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000
		<input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000
<b>19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion
<b>20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion

**Part 7: Sign Below**

<b>For you</b>	I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.
	If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.
	If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).
	I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.
	I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.
	<u>/s/ Judith A Haven</u> <b>Judith A Haven</b> Signature of Debtor 1
	Signature of Debtor 2
	Executed on <b>February 15, 2021</b> MM / DD / YYYY
	Executed on MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor 1 **Judith A Haven**

Case number (if known)

**For your attorney, if you are represented by one**

**If you are not represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.**

I, the attorney for the debtor(s) named in this petition, declare that I have informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each chapter for which the person is eligible. I also certify that I have delivered to the debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D) applies, certify that I have no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with the petition is incorrect.

**/s/ David H. Cutler**

Signature of Attorney for Debtor

Date

**February 15, 2021**

MM / DD / YYYY

**David H. Cutler**

Printed name

**Cutler & Associates Ltd**

Firm name

**4131 Main Street**

**Skokie, IL 60076**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

Contact phone **847-673-8600**

Email address

**david@cutlerltd.com**

**034403 IL**

Bar number & State

## Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)

This notice is for you if:

You are an individual filing for bankruptcy,  
and

Your debts are primarily consumer debts.  
*Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C.  
§ 101(8) as "incurred by an individual  
primarily for a personal, family, or  
household purpose."

### The types of bankruptcy that are available to individuals

Individuals who meet the qualifications may file under  
one of four different chapters of Bankruptcy Code:

Chapter 7 - Liquidation

Chapter 11 - Reorganization

Chapter 12 - Voluntary repayment plan  
for family farmers or  
fishermen

Chapter 13 - Voluntary repayment plan  
for individuals with regular  
income

**You should have an attorney review your  
decision to file for bankruptcy and the choice of  
chapter.**

### Chapter 7: Liquidation

\$245	filing fee
\$78	administrative fee
+	\$15 trustee surcharge
\$338	total fee

Chapter 7 is for individuals who have financial  
difficulty preventing them from paying their debts  
and who are willing to allow their non-exempt  
property to be used to pay their creditors. The  
primary purpose of filing under chapter 7 is to have  
your debts discharged. The bankruptcy discharge  
relieves you after bankruptcy from having to pay  
many of your pre-bankruptcy debts. Exceptions exist  
for particular debts, and liens on property may still  
be enforced after discharge. For example, a creditor  
may have the right to foreclose a home mortgage or  
repossess an automobile.

However, if the court finds that you have committed  
certain kinds of improper conduct described in the  
Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your  
discharge.

You should know that even if you file chapter 7 and  
you receive a discharge, some debts are not  
discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still  
be responsible to pay:

most taxes;

most student loans;

domestic support and property settlement  
obligations;



most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; and

certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers.

You may also be required to pay debts arising from:

fraud or theft;

fraud or defalcation while acting in breach of fiduciary capacity;

intentional injuries that you inflicted; and

death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs.

If your debts are primarily consumer debts, the court can dismiss your chapter 7 case if it finds that you have enough income to repay creditors a certain amount. You must file *Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income* (Official Form 122A-1) if you are an individual filing for bankruptcy under chapter 7. This form will determine your current monthly income and compare whether your income is more than the median income that applies in your state.

If your income is not above the median for your state, you will not have to complete the other chapter 7 form, the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2).

If your income is above the median for your state, you must file a second form—the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2). The calculations on the form—sometimes called the *Means Test*—deduct from your income living expenses and payments on certain debts to determine any amount available to pay unsecured creditors. If

your income is more than the median income for your state of residence and family size, depending on the results of the *Means Test*, the U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or creditors can file a motion to dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. If a motion is filed, the court will decide if your case should be dismissed. To avoid dismissal, you may choose to proceed under another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code.

If you are an individual filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy, the trustee may sell your property to pay your debts, subject to your right to exempt the property or a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the property. The property, and the proceeds from property that your bankruptcy trustee sells or liquidates that you are entitled to, is called *exempt property*. Exemptions may enable you to keep your home, a car, clothing, and household items or to receive some of the proceeds if the property is sold.

Exemptions are not automatic. To exempt property, you must list it on *Schedule C: The Property You Claim as Exempt* (Official Form 106C). If you do not list the property, the trustee may sell it and pay all of the proceeds to your creditors.

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## Chapter 11: Reorganization

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	\$1,167	filing fee
+	\$571	administrative fee
	\$1,738	total fee

Chapter 11 is often used for reorganizing a business, but is also available to individuals. The provisions of chapter 11 are too complicated to summarize briefly.

### Read These Important Warnings

Because bankruptcy can have serious long-term financial and legal consequences, including loss of your property, you should hire an attorney and carefully consider all of your options before you file. Only an attorney can give you legal advice about what can happen as a result of filing for bankruptcy and what your options are. If you do file for bankruptcy, an attorney can help you fill out the forms properly and protect you, your family, your home, and your possessions.

Although the law allows you to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, you should understand that many people find it difficult to represent themselves successfully. The rules are technical, and a mistake or inaction may harm you. If you file without an attorney, you are still responsible for knowing and following all of the legal requirements.

You should not file for bankruptcy if you are not eligible to file or if you do not intend to file the necessary documents.

Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned if you commit fraud in your bankruptcy case. Making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

#### Chapter 12: Repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen

	\$200	filing fee
+	\$78	administrative fee
	\$278	total fee

Similar to chapter 13, chapter 12 permits family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time using future earnings and to discharge some debts that are not paid.

#### Chapter 13: Repayment plan for individuals with regular income

	\$235	filing fee
+	\$78	administrative fee
	\$313	total fee

Chapter 13 is for individuals who have regular income and would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments over a period of time and to discharge some debts that are not paid. You are eligible for chapter 13 only if your debts are not more than certain dollar amounts set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 109.

Under chapter 13, you must file with the court a plan to repay your creditors all or part of the money that you owe them, usually using your future earnings. If the court approves your plan, the court will allow you to repay your debts, as adjusted by the plan, within 3 years or 5 years, depending on your income and other factors.

After you make all the payments under your plan, many of your debts are discharged. The debts that are not discharged and that you may still be responsible to pay include:

- domestic support obligations,
- most student loans,
- certain taxes,
- debts for fraud or theft,
- debts for fraud or defalcation while acting in a fiduciary capacity,
- most criminal fines and restitution obligations,
- certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers,
- certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury, and
- certain long-term secured debts.

### **Warning: File Your Forms on Time**

Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information about your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. The court may dismiss your bankruptcy case if you do not file this information within the deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

For more information about the documents and their deadlines, go to:  
<http://www.uscourts.gov/forms/bankruptcy-forms>

### **Bankruptcy crimes have serious consequences**

If you knowingly and fraudulently conceal assets or make a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury—either orally or in writing—in connection with a bankruptcy case, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both.

All information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the U.S. Trustee, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, and other offices and employees of the U.S. Department of Justice.

### **Make sure the court has your mailing address**

The bankruptcy court sends notices to the mailing address you list on *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Official Form 101). To ensure that you receive information about your case, Bankruptcy Rule 4002 requires that you notify the court of any changes in your address.

A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*. If you file a joint case and each spouse lists the same mailing address on the bankruptcy petition, the bankruptcy court generally will mail you and your spouse one copy of each notice, unless you file a statement with the court asking that each spouse receive separate copies.

### **Understand which services you could receive from credit counseling agencies**

The law generally requires that you receive a credit counseling briefing from an approved credit counseling agency. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h). If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must receive the briefing. With limited exceptions, you must receive it within the 180 days **before** you file your bankruptcy petition. This briefing is usually conducted by telephone or on the Internet.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, you generally must complete a financial management instructional course before you can receive a discharge. If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must complete the course.

You can obtain the list of agencies approved to provide both the briefing and the instructional course from:  
<http://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/bankruptcy/credit-counseling-and-debtor-education-courses>.

In Alabama and North Carolina, go to:  
<http://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/bankruptcy/credit-counseling-and-debtor-education-courses>.

If you do not have access to a computer, the clerk of the bankruptcy court may be able to help you obtain the list.

B2030 (Form 2030) (12/15)

**United States Bankruptcy Court**  
**Northern District of Illinois**

In re **Judith A Haven**

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter

**7**

**DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR(S)**

1. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 329(a) and Fed. Bankr. P. 2016(b), I certify that I am the attorney for the above named debtor(s) and that compensation paid to me within one year before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy, or agreed to be paid to me, for services rendered or to be rendered on behalf of the debtor(s) in contemplation of or in connection with the bankruptcy case is as follows:

For legal services, I have agreed to accept .....	\$	<b>2,052.00</b>
Prior to the filing of this statement I have received .....	\$	<b>62.00</b>
Balance Due .....	\$	<b>1,990.00</b>

2. \$ **0.00** of the filing fee has been paid.
3. The source of the compensation paid to me was:  
☒ Debtor ☐ Other (specify):
4. The source of compensation to be paid to me is:  
☒ Debtor ☐ Other (specify):
5. ☒ I have not agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with any other person unless they are members and associates of my law firm.  
☐ I have agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with a person or persons who are not members or associates of my law firm. A copy of the agreement, together with a list of the names of the people sharing in the compensation is attached.
6. In return for the above-disclosed fee, I have agreed to render legal service for all aspects of the bankruptcy case, including:  
a. Analysis of the debtor's financial situation, and rendering advice to the debtor in determining whether to file a petition in bankruptcy;  
b. Preparation and filing of any petition, schedules, statement of affairs and plan which may be required;  
c. Representation of the debtor at the meeting of creditors and confirmation hearing, and any adjourned hearings thereof;  
d. [Other provisions as needed]
7. By agreement with the debtor(s), the above-disclosed fee does not include the following service:

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the foregoing is a complete statement of any agreement or arrangement for payment to me for representation of the debtor(s) in this bankruptcy proceeding.

**February 15, 2021**

*Date*

**/s/ David H. Cutler**

**David H. Cutler**

*Signature of Attorney*

**Cutler & Associates Ltd**

**4131 Main Street**

**Skokie, IL 60076**

**847-673-8600 Fax: 847-673-8636**

**david@cutlerltd.com**

*Name of law firm*

## CUTLER & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
4131 MAIN STREET  
SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076

TELEPHONE (847) 673-8600  
FAX (847) 673-8636

1/28/2021

Dear Judith:

This will serve as our engagement agreement for representing you in a Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The agreement will become effective only when you sign it and make a payment to us. Please read this agreement carefully and be sure you understand it. If you have any questions, you should consult with me before signing. This document represents the complete agreement between us and may not be modified or replaced except by a subsequent written agreement executed by the parties. No other services will be provided to you.

You understand that most taxes and other governmental obligations will not be discharged in your bankruptcy. Student loans will not be discharged in your bankruptcy.

The following are the specifics of the services we will perform for you:

### Prefiling Services

1. Meet with you to discuss your financial situation and possible solutions;
2. Provide you with the attached section 342(b)(1) notice, which sets out the purpose, benefits, and costs of filing under Chapters 7, 11, 12 or 13; the types of services available from credit counseling agencies; and the penalties of committing certain bankruptcy crimes, and will explain the notice to you;
3. Prepare the necessary bankruptcy petition, schedules, statement of affairs, and other documents, and review and file the bankruptcy case under the chapter you select;

### Post Filing Services

4. Obtain updated documents from you as required by the trustee appointed to your case;
5. Timely (subject your cooperation) forward all required documents to your trustee;
6. Notify you of your section 341 meeting of creditors and any documents you bring to such meeting;
7. Prepare for and accompany you to the section 341 first meeting of creditors;
8. Correspond with your creditors to make sure they have been notified of your bankruptcy proceeding;
9. Assist in the amendments to the papers filed and the production of such documents as the trustee requests;
10. Assist you in the execution of reaffirmation agreements that are in your best interest;
11. Remain available through the close of your case to answer any questions and provide you with legal advice regarding your bankruptcy;
12. Assist you in regards to any post filing garnishment matters;
13. Monitor all court filings and promptly notify you of all relevant matters;
14. Promptly forward you all correspondence we receive from your creditors;
15. Monitor all deadlines and the status of your debtor education class;
16. Assist you in compliance with bankruptcy audits;
17. Advise you on redemption of property;

18. Handle the following lien avoidance motions: \_\_\_\_\_ (none if not stated) – This must be completed if you own real estate and have a judgement against you;
19. Timely negotiate with the Trustee regarding any property or actions that the Trustee may pursue that could be adverse to your interests.

**Services Not Included**

1. Judicial lien avoidances not specifically identified above;
2. Adversary proceeding;
3. Representation in any state court matters.

We are willing to provide these services to you for either of the following flat fee arraignments:

- ~~1. Option 1: A flat fee of \$1,850 paid before filing your case, which includes filing fees and credit reports. We encourage you to accept this option as it will cost you \$539 less than Option 2 for the same level of service. We charge more for Option 2 because this option requires us to perform substantially more compliance work with the bankruptcy court;~~

OR

2. Option 2: A fee of \$400 to file a chapter 7 bankruptcy petition for you with the expectation that you will hire us afterwards by signing and returning the attached “Post Filing Retainer Agreement” by which you will agree to pay \$1,990 after your case is filed.

Until you sign the Post Filing Agreement, you are under no obligation to pay us any additional fees and we will have no right to payment of any fees from you.

You are under no obligation to sign the Post Filing Agreement or hire us after your case is filed, but if you do not, we will file a motion to withdraw from your case pursuant to Local Rule 2091-1 of the United States Bankruptcy Court, and you may either represent yourself or hire another attorney to represent you in your bankruptcy proceeding.

You may be able to find an attorney willing to represent you in your bankruptcy at a lower fee than ours after your case is filed. This is your absolute right and you are assured we will not interfere with this right should you decide to do so.

You understand that all funds you pay us are considered payments towards your flat fee retainer and will immediately become our property. These payments will be deposited into our general business account and will be used for any and all of our general expenses and may be used to pay the costs of your credit reports and court filing fees. If you decide not to proceed with your case, we will retain no less than \$750 of payments made to us.

You understand that the fee we are charging you is a “flat” fee. In setting our fee, we have considered the following factors based on what we expect from the average Chapter 7 Bankruptcy: (1) the time and labor expended; (2) the novelty and difficult of the question raised; (3) the skill required to properly perform the legal services rendered; (4) our opportunity costs in handling your matter; (5) the customary fee for like work; (6) our expectations at the outset of this agreement; (7) the time limitations imposed by you or the circumstances; (8) the facts you have informed us about and the result we expect to achieve;

(9) our experience, reputation and abilities; (10) whether or not there are issues which would cause other attorneys in our legal community to not accept your case; (11) the nature and length of the professional relation between you and us; and (12) attorney's fees in similar cases. Your case may take us more time or less time than a typical case and this is a risk we undertake by agreeing to represent you on a flat fee.

You understand that due to the flat fee nature of our work, we do not expect to track our time on your case. If you want us to track our time on the specifics of your case, we will do so provided that you understand that you will not be able to contact your attorney via text message or by cell phone as we are unable to track the time spent while attorneys are not in the office.

Initial geth. \_\_\_\_\_ Firm is not required to track time on my case.

Due to scheduling, the attorney appearing with you at your 341 meeting of creditors may be an employee of our firm or he/she may be an attorney who we hire to appear on our behalf. It is our regular practice to inform you via email the name and a picture of the attorney who will be with you at least five days prior to your meeting, however, in rare situations, attorney schedules can change and we will notify you of such change as early as possible. You are assured that any attorney who attends the meeting with you is experienced, competent and will have the details of your case, however, due to fact that we cannot chose your 341 meeting date, we cannot promise to have any specific attorney attend the meeting with you. Your attorney will explain what will happen at your 341 meeting and you are encouraged to ask your attorney any questions you have about such meeting.

You agree that all documents and information you provide us will be complete, accurate and truthful. You agree to review your petition prior to filing your case. You are responsible for any inaccuracies in your petition. **If you do not understand anything**, we will be glad to explain it.

There is an inherent conflict wherever attorneys represent debtors in bankruptcy for a fee. We are working to alleviate your financial issues, while at the same time charging a fee. There have also previously been cases that questioned whether asking you to sign an agreement after the filing of your bankruptcy case to pay an attorney for services rendered after the filing of your case presents a possible additional conflict of interest. We can only represent you if that representation will not be limited by our own interests. We believe our ability to represent you will not be affected by your ongoing obligation to pay our post-petition fee. By signing this agreement, you are waiving this conflict and are allowing us to represent you. You do not have to waive this conflict of interest and can instead choose not to hire us. You also have the right to consult separate counsel to discuss whether you should waive this conflict.

In the event your case is dismissed or you do not get a discharge as a result of any failure on our part, we will promptly refund all fees you have paid us. No other refunds will be given.

**You agree to provide all required documents necessary to complete your petition no later than 30 days after execution of this agreement. If documents are not provided by this date, this agreement will be null and void and we may close your file and retain all payments you have made to us.**

Documents may be submitted to us in person for copying, by fax or by email in PDF format. We will not accept documents by text messaging or original documents. All documents you give us will be reviewed, scanned as necessary and destroyed.

We can add creditors to your petition within a reasonable time after filing. However, there is a fee of \$100 which includes a \$31 court cost that must be paid prior to us amending your petition. If you wish for us to add creditors to your petition prior to discharge you must provide us a list of the missing creditors and the \$100 no later than **30 days prior** to discharge.

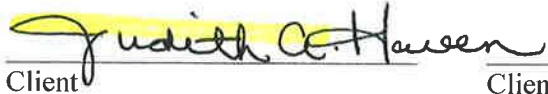
It is very important for you to inform us of any credit card purchases within the last six months for non-essential items and cash advances. We consider food, gas, medical and other such purchases to be essential. Any non-essential purchases in excess of \$500 should be specifically discussed with me so that we can best serve your interests.

If you fail to attend your first 341 meeting for any reason and it is continued. You will pay our firm an additional \$300 to attend the continued 341 meeting.

Sincerely:

Cutler & Associates, Ltd.  
A Debt Relief Agency. We help people  
file for bankruptcy relief under the  
Bankruptcy Code

Reviewed with Attorney and Accepted:

  
Client \_\_\_\_\_ Client



**CUTLER & ASSOCIATES, LTD.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
4131 MAIN STREET  
SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076  
TELEPHONE (847) 673-8600  
FAX (847) 673-8636

**Post- Petition Fee Agreement**

**DO NOT SIGN THIS AGREEMENT UNLESS YOU ALREADY HAVE  
A BANKRUPTCY CASE NUMBER**

The undersigned has previously hired Cutler & Associates, Ltd. ("Firm") to file a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy. Firm has done so and my case No. \_\_\_\_\_ has been filed.

1. This agreement supplements and reaffirms my agreement with Firm dated \_\_\_\_\_ wherein I contemplated paying Firm the sum of \$1,990 after my case was filed.
2. Firm has informed me that as a result of my filing bankruptcy, I have no current legal obligation to pay Firm any fees to complete my bankruptcy.
3. I understand that signing this agreement creates a new obligation for me to pay Firm for services which I am entitled already entitled to. However, I understand that if I do not sign this agreement, Firm may ask the bankruptcy court for permission to withdraw from further representing me in my bankruptcy case.
4. I am informed that Firm has an inherent conflict of interest in asking me to sign this agreement. The conflict is that I hired Firm to relieve me of my debts, but Firm is asking me to enter into this agreement which is causing me to incur new debt and my signing this agreement is in the Firm's own self-interest. By signing this agreement, I understand that I am waiving this conflict.
5. Notwithstanding the fact that I am not required to sign this agreement or pay Firm any additional amounts, I would like to do so and would like to pay Firm in the following manner so that Firm does not attempt to withdraw from my case and so that Firm completes all services necessary in my bankruptcy as set forth in my original fee agreement with Firm:

\$199 on or before _____;	\$199 on or before _____;
\$199 on or before _____;	\$199 on or before _____;
\$199 on or before _____;	\$199 on or before _____;
\$199 on or before _____;	\$199 on or before _____;
\$199 on or before _____;	\$199 on or before _____;
5. Firm agrees that it will not seek to withdraw from representing me in my bankruptcy case and will continue to represent me in my bankruptcy.
6. Firm agrees that in the event I do not receive a discharge of my debts as a result of Firm's failure to provide any service, Firm will promptly refund me all payments received under this agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cutler & Associates, Ltd.  
A Debt Relief Agency

AGREED TO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client

**CUTLER & ASSOCIATES, LTD.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
4131 MAIN STREET  
SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076

TELEPHONE (847) 673-8600  
FAX (847) 673-8636

**Recurring Payment Authorization Form**

Schedule your payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account. Just complete and sign this form to get started!

**Recurring Payments Will Make Your Life Easier:**

- It's convenient (saving you time and postage)
- Your payment is always on time (even if you're out of town), eliminating late charges

**Here's How Recurring Payments Work:**

You authorize regularly scheduled charges to your checking/savings account. You will be charged the amount indicated below each billing period. The charge will appear on your bank statement as an "ACH Debit."


You agree that no prior-notification will be provided.

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**Please complete the information below:**

**Printed Name:** John Smith:

**Case Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Checking/ Savings Account	Debit Card
____ Checking      ____ Savings	
Name on Acct. _____	Card Number: _____
Bank Name _____	Exp Date: _____
Routing Number _____	Security Code: _____
Account Number _____	Billing Zip: _____
	

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that this authorization will remain in effect until I cancel it in writing, and I agree to notify Cutler and Associates, Ltd. in writing of any changes in my account information or termination of this authorization at least 15 days prior to the next billing date. **In the event I terminate these payments Cutler and Associates, Ltd., may elect to withdraw from my bankruptcy case and cease all work on my case.** If the above noted payment dates fall on a weekend or holiday, I understand that the payments may be executed on the next business day. For ACH debits to my checking/savings account, I understand that because these are electronic transactions, these funds may be withdrawn from my account as soon as the above noted periodic transaction dates. In the case of an ACH Transaction being rejected for Non Sufficient Funds (NSF) I understand that Cutler and Associates, Ltd. may at its discretion attempt to process the charge again within 30 days, and agree to an additional **\$25 charge** for each attempt returned NSF which will be initiated as a separate transaction from the authorized recurring payment. I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law. I certify that I am an authorized user of this bank account and will not dispute these scheduled transactions with my bank; so long as the transactions correspond to the terms indicated in this authorization form.

**Debt Relief Agency Disclosures to an Assisted Person**

Section 527 of the Bankruptcy Code requires a Debt Relief Agency to provide an assisted person with the following:

A copy of the notice prepared by the clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, in accordance with the requirements of §342(b), which is attached hereto and which contains:

- (1) a brief description of:
    - (A) Chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13 and the general purpose, benefits, and costs of proceeding under each of those chapters; and
    - (B) the types of services available from credit counseling agencies; and
  - (2) statements specifying that:
    - (A) a person who knowingly and fraudulently conceals assets or makes a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury in connection with a case under this title shall be subject to fine, imprisonment, or both; and
    - (B) all information supplied by a debtor in connection with a case under this title is subject to examination by the Attorney General.
2. The following disclosures are required by §527(a)(2), which advises an assisted person that:
- (A) all information that the assisted person is required to provide with a petition and thereafter during a case under this title is required to be complete, accurate, and truthful.
  - (B) all assets and all liabilities are required to be completely and accurately disclosed in the documents filed to commence the case, and the replacement value of each asset as defined in §506 must be stated in those documents where requested after reasonable inquiry to establish such value;
  - (C) current monthly income, the amounts specified in section 707(b)(2), and, in a case under Chapter 13 of this title, disposable income (determined in accordance with §707(b)(2)) are required to be stated after reasonable inquiry; and
  - (D) information that an assisted person provides during his or her case may be audited pursuant to this title, and failure to provide such information may result in dismissal of the case under this title or other sanction, including a criminal sanction.

If you have any questions about any of these disclosures, we will be happy to provide further explanation.

Separate Disclosure Required by Section 527 of the Bankruptcy Code as Amended

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BANKRUPTCY ASSISTANCE SERVICES FROM AN ATTORNEY

(Note: This form is mandated by statute. It may or may not correctly explain the law.)

If you decide to seek bankruptcy relief, you can represent yourself; you can hire an attorney to represent you, or you can get help in some localities from a bankruptcy petition preparer who is not an attorney. THE LAW REQUIRES AN ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER TO GIVE YOU A WRITTEN CONTRACT SPECIFYING WHAT THE ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER WILL DO FOR YOU AND HOW MUCH IT WILL COST. Ask to see the contract before you hire anyone.

The following information explains what must be done in a routine bankruptcy case to help you evaluate how much services you need. Before filing a bankruptcy case, either you or your attorney should analyze your eligibility for different forms of debt relief available under the Bankruptcy Code and decide which form of relief is most likely to be beneficial for you. Be sure you understand the relief you can obtain and its limitations. To file a bankruptcy case, documents (Petition, Schedules, Statement of Financial Affairs, and in some cases a Statement of Intention) must be prepared correctly and filed with the bankruptcy court. You will have to pay a filing fee to the bankruptcy court. Once your case starts, you must attend the required first meeting of creditors, where you may be questioned by a court official called a “trustee” and by creditors.

If you choose to file a Chapter 7 case, you may be asked by a creditor to reaffirm a debt. You may want help deciding whether to do so. A creditor is not permitted to coerce you into reaffirming your debts.

If you choose to file a Chapter 13 case, in which you repay your creditors what you can afford over 3 to 5 years, you may also want help preparing your Chapter 13 plan and with the confirmation hearing on your plan, which will be before a bankruptcy judge.

If you select another type of relief under the Bankruptcy Code other than Chapter 7 or Chapter 13, you should consult someone familiar with that type of relief.

Your bankruptcy case may also involve litigation. You are generally permitted to represent yourself in litigation in bankruptcy court, but only lawyers, not bankruptcy petition preparers, can give you legal advice.

Information to the Assisted Person (Debtor) on  
How to Provide All Information Required by Section 521

Section 521 of the Code sets out the Debtor's duties related to the filing of a bankruptcy case. A copy of the section is attached to this writing.

As you fill out these schedules and statement of affairs, you should keep the following in mind.

Completing the income and expense pages accurately and completely is critical.

- (a) To compile your income, refer to recent pay stubs and last year's income tax returns. Accounting for overtime, investment dividends, and other earnings is necessary.
- (b) People usually pay cash for many items, such as groceries. Review your monthly expense payments and make a best estimate on cash expenditures. If you pay insurance annually, calculate the monthly cost. Attached are IRS expense allowances for the area in which you live. If your expenses exceed these, we will have to review them and perhaps make adjustments.
- (c) When you value property you own, consider prices in the neighborhood for housing, in newspapers and car lots for automobiles, and what you would pay for furniture and clothes at a business selling such goods.
- (d) If you have an item of special value, an appraisal may be necessary.
- (e) When listing creditors, collect current bills and use that information for mailing addresses and balances due.
- (f) Under the law of this state, or federal bankruptcy law, certain property may be exempt and may be retained. Attached is a copy of the state list of exemptions and also a list of property that may be exempt under federal law. Neither list is all-inclusive. If a seller has a lien on exempt property, the lien may be avoidable or you may have to pay for the property in order to keep it. After you have prepared these lists, we can review them and decide what property qualifies as exempt.

## Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)

### This notice is for you if:

**You are an individual filing for bankruptcy,**  
and

**Your debts are primarily consumer debts.**

*Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C.

§ 101(8) as “incurred by an individual  
primarily for a personal, family, or  
household purpose.”

### The types of bankruptcy that are available to individuals

Individuals who meet the qualifications may file under  
one of four different chapters of Bankruptcy Code:

Chapter 7 - Liquidation

Chapter 11 - Reorganization

Chapter 12 - Voluntary repayment plan  
for family farmers or  
fishermen

Chapter 13 - Voluntary repayment plan  
for individuals with regular  
income

**You should have an attorney review your  
decision to file for bankruptcy and the choice of  
chapter.**

### Chapter 7: Liquidation

\$245 filing fee

\$75 administrative fee

+ \$15 trustee surcharge

\$335 total fee

Chapter 7 is for individuals who have financial  
difficulty preventing them from paying their debts  
and who are willing to allow their nonexempt  
property to be used to pay their creditors. The  
primary purpose of filing under chapter 7 is to have  
your debts discharged. The bankruptcy discharge  
relieves you after bankruptcy from having to pay  
many of your pre-bankruptcy debts. Exceptions exist  
for particular debts, and liens on property may still  
be enforced after discharge. For example, a creditor  
may have the right to foreclose a home mortgage or  
repossess an automobile.

However, if the court finds that you have committed  
certain kinds of improper conduct described in the  
Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your  
discharge.

You should know that even if you file chapter 7 and  
you receive a discharge, some debts are not  
discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still  
be responsible to pay:

most taxes;

most student loans;

domestic support and property settlement  
obligations;

most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; and

certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers.

You may also be required to pay debts arising from:

fraud or theft;

fraud or defalcation while acting in breach of fiduciary capacity;

intentional injuries that you inflicted; and

death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs.

If your debts are primarily consumer debts, the court can dismiss your chapter 7 case if it finds that you have enough income to repay creditors a certain amount. You must file *Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income* (Official Form 122A-1) if you are an individual filing for bankruptcy under chapter 7. This form will determine your current monthly income and compare whether your income is more than the median income that applies in your state.

If your income is not above the median for your state, you will not have to complete the other chapter 7 form, the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2).

If your income is above the median for your state, you must file a second form—the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2). The calculations on the form—sometimes called the *Means Test*—deduct from your income living expenses and payments on certain debts to determine any amount available to pay unsecured creditors. If

your income is more than the median income for your state of residence and family size, depending on the results of the *Means Test*, the U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or creditors can file a motion to dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. If a motion is filed, the court will decide if your case should be dismissed. To avoid dismissal, you may choose to proceed under another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code.

If you are an individual filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy, the trustee may sell your property to pay your debts, subject to your right to exempt the property or a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the property. The property, and the proceeds from property that your bankruptcy trustee sells or liquidates that you are entitled to, is called *exempt property*. Exemptions may enable you to keep your home, a car, clothing, and household items or to receive some of the proceeds if the property is sold.

Exemptions are not automatic. To exempt property, you must list it on *Schedule C: The Property You Claim as Exempt* (Official Form 106C). If you do not list the property, the trustee may sell it and pay all of the proceeds to your creditors.

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## Chapter 11: Reorganization

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	\$1,167	filing fee
+	\$550	administrative fee
	\$1,717	total fee

Chapter 11 is often used for reorganizing a business, but is also available to individuals. The provisions of chapter 11 are too complicated to summarize briefly.

### Read These Important Warnings

Because bankruptcy can have serious long-term financial and legal consequences, including loss of your property, you should hire an attorney and carefully consider all of your options before you file. Only an attorney can give you legal advice about what can happen as a result of filing for bankruptcy and what your options are. If you do file for bankruptcy, an attorney can help you fill out the forms properly and protect you, your family, your home, and your possessions.

Although the law allows you to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, you should understand that many people find it difficult to represent themselves successfully. The rules are technical, and a mistake or inaction may harm you. If you file without an attorney, you are still responsible for knowing and following all of the legal requirements.

You should not file for bankruptcy if you are not eligible to file or if you do not intend to file the necessary documents.

Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned if you commit fraud in your bankruptcy case. Making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

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#### Chapter 12: Repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen

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	\$200	filing fee
+	\$75	<u>administrative fee</u>
	\$275	total fee

Similar to chapter 13, chapter 12 permits family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time using future earnings and to discharge some debts that are not paid.

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#### Chapter 13: Repayment plan for individuals with regular income

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	\$235	filing fee
+	\$75	<u>administrative fee</u>
	\$310	total fee

Chapter 13 is for individuals who have regular income and would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments over a period of time and to discharge some debts that are not paid. You are eligible for chapter 13 only if your debts are not more than certain dollar amounts set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 109.

Under chapter 13, you must file with the court a plan to repay your creditors all or part of the money that you owe them, usually using your future earnings. If the court approves your plan, the court will allow you to repay your debts, as adjusted by the plan, within 3 years or 5 years, depending on your income and other factors.

After you make all the payments under your plan, many of your debts are discharged. The debts that are not discharged and that you may still be responsible to pay include:

- domestic support obligations,
- most student loans,
- certain taxes,
- debts for fraud or theft,
- debts for fraud or defalcation while acting in a fiduciary capacity,
- most criminal fines and restitution obligations,
- certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers,
- certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury, and
- certain long-term secured debts.



**Warning: File Your Forms on Time**

Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information about your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. The court may dismiss your bankruptcy case if you do not file this information within the deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

For more information about the documents and their deadlines, go to:  
[http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy\\_forms.html#procedure](http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy_forms.html#procedure).

**Bankruptcy crimes have serious consequences**

If you knowingly and fraudulently conceal assets or make a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury—either orally or in writing—in connection with a bankruptcy case, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both.

All information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the U.S. Trustee, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, and other offices and employees of the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Make sure the court has your mailing address**

The bankruptcy court sends notices to the mailing address you list on *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Official Form 101). To ensure that you receive information about your case, Bankruptcy Rule 4002 requires that you notify the court of any changes in your address.

A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint* case. If you file a joint case and each spouse lists the same mailing address on the bankruptcy petition, the bankruptcy court generally will mail you and your spouse one copy of each notice, unless you file a statement with the court asking that each spouse receive separate copies.

**Understand which services you could receive from credit counseling agencies**

The law generally requires that you receive a credit counseling briefing from an approved credit counseling agency. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h). If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must receive the briefing. With limited exceptions, you must receive it within the 180 days **before** you file your bankruptcy petition. This briefing is usually conducted by telephone or on the Internet.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, you generally must complete a financial management instructional course before you can receive a discharge. If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must complete the course.

You can obtain the list of agencies approved to provide both the briefing and the instructional course from:  
[http://justice.gov/ust/eo/hapcpa/ccde/cc\\_approved.html](http://justice.gov/ust/eo/hapcpa/ccde/cc_approved.html).

In Alabama and North Carolina, go to:  
<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyResources/ApprovedCreditAndDebtCounselors.aspx>.

If you do not have access to a computer, the clerk of the bankruptcy court may be able to help you obtain the list.

Comenity Bank/Carsons  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
Po Box 182125columbus  
Columbus, OH 43218

World Finance Company  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
108 Frederick St  
Greenville, SC 29607

Credit First National Association  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
Po Box 81315  
Cleveland, OH 44181

Credit Protection Association  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
Po Box 802068  
Dallas, TX 75318

Fingerhut  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
6250 Ridgewood Road  
Saint Cloud, MN 56303

First Premier Bank  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
Po Box 5524  
Sioux Falls, SD 57117

Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
16 Mcleland Road  
Saint Cloud, MN 56303

Portfolio Recovery  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
120 Corporate Blvd  
Norfolk, VA 23502

Security Finance  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
Po Box 1893  
Spartanburg, SC 29304

Seventh Ave  
Attn: Bankruptcy Dept  
1112 7th Ave  
Monroe, WI 53566